Appl. No. 09/780,987
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The present application also incorporates herein by reference for all purposes the entire disclosure of U.S. Patent Application No. [[__/___,___]] 09/781,042 (Attorney Docket No. 20004-000710US), entitled "A TOKENS-BASED SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO USERS" filed concurrently with this application.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

--In accordance with the present invention, the taxonomy provides information which allows SSPS 110 to map items described in projects to purchasable units. According to an embodiment of the present invention, SSPS 110 may accomplish the mapping by first mapping the item descriptions in the projects to items specified by the taxonomy and them then mapping the items specified by the taxonomy to purchasable units. Each item specified in the taxonomy may be uniquely identified by an item identifier (hereinafter referred to as an "item_id"). The taxonomy thus facilitates mapping of project item descriptions to item_ids which may then be mapped to purchasable units information.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14 line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to an embodiment of the present invention, table "Unit Of Measure" [[504]] 506 may be configured to store information related to the various units of measure associated with the items specified for a domain (e.g. for item "sugar", the unit of measure may be "pounds (lb.)"). Each record in table [["Item Description"]] "Unit Of Measure" 506 may store information for a particular unit of measure and may comprise the following fields: (a) a "unit_of_measure_id" field [[504-a]] 506-a which uniquely identifies each unit of measure (e.g. if "pounds" is the unit of measure, the "unit_of_measure_id" field [[504-a]] 506-a may also be set to "pounds" or some other unique value); (b) a "unit_of_measure_text" field [[504-b]] 506-b which stores a text string used for describing or displaying the unit of measure (e.g. a string

Appl. No. 09/780,987
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2003

PATENT

"pounds (lb.)"); and (c) a "unit_of_measure_type" field [[504-c]] 506-c which may store information identifying the type of attribute of an item to which the unit of measure identified by "unit_of_measure_id" field [[504-a]] 506-a applies. The types of units of measure may be domain specific. For example, for [[the]] a cooking recipe domain, the types of units of measure may be related to the length of an item, area of an item, volume of an item, weight of an item (e.g. pounds), packaging associated with an item (e.g. 19-oz. can, 8-oz. packet, etc.), and other types related to specific items (e.g. a clove of garlic, a head of garlic, a wedge of lemon, a whole lemon, a sprig, a pinch, a stick, etc.).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20 line 6 with the following amended paragraph:
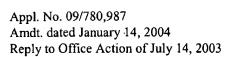
--Fig. 8 depicts a mapping of item_ids to purchase units according to an embodiment of the present invention. As depicted in Fig. 8, a single item_id may map to one or more purchasable units. For example, "item_id#1" in Fig. 8 maps to "purchase_unit#1", "purchase_unit#2", and "purchase_unit#4" (e.g. an item_id corresponding to "milk" may map to "a bottle of Brand X milk", "a bottle of Brand X skimmed milk", "a bottle of Brand Y milk", etc.). Further, two or more different item_ids may map to the same purchase unit(s). For example, as depicted in Fig. 8, "item_id#3" and "item_id#5" map to the same purchase unit "purchase_unit#5" (e.g. the item_ids corresponding to "lemon juice" and "lemon zest" may both map to a "lemon from grocery store XYZ"). In general, an item_id may map to one or more purchase units, and a purchase unit may map to one or more item_ids.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21 line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to an embodiment of the present invention, the item_ids discussed in this application are like the "tokens" discussed in U.S. Patent Application No. [[__/___,___]] 09/781,042 (Attorney Docket No. 20004-000710US), entitled "A TOKENS-BASED SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO USERS" filed concurrently with this application, the entire disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference for all purposes. Accordingly, in accordance with the present invention, various techniques discussed in U.S. Patent Application No. [[__/___,___]] 09/781,042 (Attorney Docket No. 20004-000710US) may be used to

Appl. No. 09/780,987
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2003

PATENT

determine item_ids corresponding to information contained in the purchase request, and to map item_ids to information related to purchasable units.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22 line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

--As indicated above, SSPS 110 may also receive purchase requests from various other sources and interfaces other than web pages. These interfaces/sources may include, for example, devices coupled to SSPS 110 via wired or wireless links, various hardware or software modules such as browser plug-ins, code modules, etc., information storage media such as computer disks, CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc., and the like. Examples of techniques for providing purchase request information to SSPS 110 are discussed in U.S. Patent Application No. [[__/___,___]] 09/781,042 (Attorney Docket No. 20004-000710US), entitled "A TOKENS-BASED SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO USERS" filed concurrently with this application, the entire disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference for all purposes. It should be apparent that various other techniques may also be used to provide purchase request information to SSPS 110 in accordance with the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26 line 33 with the following amended paragraph:

--SSPS 110 may then determine purchasable units corresponding to the item_ids determined for the purchase request (step 1012). According to an embodiment of the present invention, the "item_id-to-purchase unit" mapping information (described above and depicted in Fig. 8) accessible to SSPS 110 may be used to determine the purchase units corresponding to the item_ids determined in step 1010 1006. SSPS 110 may prepare a list of purchase units corresponding to each project identified in the purchase request (if the purchase request specifies more than one project and the inter-projects aggregation option has been disabled) or a single purchase items list may be prepared for the purchase request (if the purchase request specifies only one project or if the inter-projects aggregation option has been enabled).--

Appl. No. 09/780,987
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2003

PATENT

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27 line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to an embodiment of the present invention, SSPS 110 may be configured to determine the smallest quantity of each purchasable unit required for the project(s) in the purchase request. This feature to determine the smallest quantity may be user configurable. If this option has been enabled by the user, as part of step 1012, SSPS 110 may perform processing to determine the smallest quantity of each purchasable unit required for the project(s) in the purchase request. If the inter-projects aggregation option has also been enabled, SSPS 110 may determine the smallest quantities of the purchasable units which satisfy the quantities of items for all projects specified by the purchase request. If the inter-projects aggregation option has been disabled, the calculation of the smallest quantities of the purchasable units may be performed on a per project basis for each project specified in the purchase request. For example, if a particular recipe requires ¼ lb. of butter, SSPS 110 may determine that an item_id corresponding to butter maps to purchasable units including butter packages provided by Land O'Lakes butter available in packaging sizes of 1 lb., 2 lbs., and 4 lbs. SSPS 110 may determine that the smallest package of butter which satisfies the user request is the 1 lb. packaging size. The 2 lb. and 4 lb. Land O'Lakes butter units may accordingly be excluded from the list of purchasable units for the project. According to an embodiment of the present invention, information stored in tables "Unit Of Measure" 506 and "Conversion Information" 508 (depicted in Fig. 5) of the taxonomy may be used to determine the smallest quantities of the purchasable units.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28 line 32 with the following amended paragraph:

--During step ~~1016~~ 1014, SSPS 110 may also process the list of purchasable items determined in step 1012 based upon rules or preferences configured by providers of SSPS 110. These rules or preferences may include e-marketing rules, priority rules, branding rules, and the like. For example, these rules may indicate that certain vendors be preferred over other vendors, certain brands be preferred over other brands, certain items be preferred over other items, and the like. For example, a particular rule may specify that for a particular item_id specified in the

Appl. No. 09/780,987
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2003

PATENT

taxonomy, only purchasable units from vendor "V_n" are to be forwarded to the user, even though the list of purchasable units determined in step 1012 for the particular item_id may contain purchasable units from other vendors. In applying this rule, SSPS 110 may filter out all purchasable units from the other vendors from the list of purchasable units before communicating the list to the source of the purchase request according to step 1016.--